REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 2-3 and 11-13 stand canceled. Claims 1, 4-10, 16-18 and 20-23 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that which Applicant regards as the invention. Support for the amendments to the claims is found at page 11, line 15 to page 15, line 25 and Fig. 5 of the originally filed application. Accordingly, Applicant submits that no new matter has been added to the application.

Interview

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Riley for granting the interview of February 24, 2010. In the interview Applicant explained the difference between determining whether a printer is set to be shared and monitoring the working status of a printer.

Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 7-10, 15 and 17-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,180,626 ("Gassho '626") in combination with U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0133152 ("Matsueda '152"), and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0179404 ("Matsueda '404"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Applicant's Reply to the Examiner's Response

Applicant has considered the Examiner's response but respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejection of claims 1 and 21 for the following reasons:

1. The Examiner asserts that Gassho at col.10, line 58 to col. 11, line 13 discloses a storage unit 113 that stores printer information representing whether a printer is set as a shared printer as recited in claim 1. However, as clearly stated by Gassho, the information in the storage unit are printer ID's for identifying the printers to be monitored. As clearly described by Gassho at col. 9, lines 28-30, the printers to be monitored are all of the printers on the network that carry out printing operations in response to print jobs, irrespective of whether the printers can be shared. Gassho specifically states at col. 11, lines 10-13 that "The printer IDs may be

replaced by any piece of information for identifying the respective printers; for example network addresses of IP addresses."

One of ordinary skill in the art would understand that a printer connected to a network, such as the printers 50-70 disclosed by Gassho, may be configured to be dedicated to a single client (not shared) or may be set to be shared by specified clients. This concept was clearly described in the Amendment filed on March 1, 2010.

As clearly described by Gassho, the information stored in the storage unit 113 is information pertaining to each printer on the network that carries out printing operations irrespective of whether the printer is set to be shared. Further, as clearly stated, the information that is stored is information that identifies the printer by name, network address or IP address. Such information uniquely identifies a printer with respect to other devices attached to the network but does not record a characteristic or parameter associated with the printer, such as whether the printer is set as a shared printer.

2. The Examiner further asserts that Gassho at Fig 6, steps 300-340 and col. 13, lines 61 to col. 14, line 48 discloses a printer monitoring unit that compares "printer information" as received with previously stored printer information, as recited in claim 1.

Gassho discloses at step 340 determining "whether or not a requirement signal generated by the print load distribution monitoring routine requiring that monitor information be transmitted has been received...". Such step merely determines whether to transmit the monitor information that has been collected.

"Printer information" is defined in claim 1 as information that represents whether a printer is set for sharing. Applicant respectfully submits that one skilled in the art would not construe step 340, which merely identifies whether monitoring information has been received, as the claimed step of comparing received printer information with stored printer information, where the printer information represents whether a printer is set for sharing.

3. The Examiner asserts that Matsueda '152 suggests a notifying unit that timely notifies a client when a sharing of a printer has been canceled. Applicant first wishes to point out that

notification by Matsueda occurs at the time a print job is requested by a client and not, as recited by claim 1, at the time that sharing is canceled, which is at any time independent of a print job. Further, Matsuda '152 merely discloses a notifying means that notifies a client apparatus of registration management information, that job information cannot be printed, or of a printer that can process the job information. Matsueda '152 does not disclose, teach or suggest notifying a client of whether a printer is set for sharing at a time that sharing of the printer is canceled.

4. The Examiner further asserts that Matsueda '404 discloses a notifying unit that sends information indicative of the position of an installing program to the plurality of clients. Matsueda '404, however, does not disclose, teach or suggest sending information about the position of the installing program. Matsueda '404 merely notifies the client that a box has been created for storing print data and a password for the print data and does not disclose either storing an installing program for use by the client or the position of the installing program.

In spite of Applicant's strong conviction that the cited prior art does not make unamended claims 1 and 21 obvious, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 21 to clarify that when a newly connected printer is detected, a print driver for the newly connected printer is received by the system, an installing program for the client for installing the print driver is formed by the system, and the plurality of clients are informed of the location of the installing program.

Amended claim 1 recites:

1. A print system in a network configuration which processes print requests from a plurality of clients for printing on a printer comprising:

a storing unit which stores printer information representing whether the printer is set as a shared printer;

a shared printer monitoring unit which receives the printer information at times unrelated to processing of a print request from the plurality of clients, compares the received printer information with printer information corresponding to the printer previously stored in the storing unit, and if on the basis of the comparison, the shared printer monitoring unit determines that the received printer information is different from the stored printer information, the shared

printer monitoring unit further determines that the stored printer information is invalid and cancels sharing of the printer;

a notifying unit which, in timely response to the shared printer monitoring unit canceling the sharing of the printer, notifies said plurality of clients that the sharing of the printer has been canceled, the notice including a name of the canceled printer;

a network printer monitoring unit which detects whether a printer is newly connected;

a print processor which receives a printer driver for the new printer;, and

a program forming unit which forms an installing program usable by the plurality of clients for installing the printer driver, said notifying unit sending information indicative of the position of the installing program to the plurality of clients when the shared printer monitoring unit detects that the newly connected printer is set for sharing.

Gassho '626 (US 7,180,626 B1) is directed to controlling print jobs by distributing each print job to a selected one of a plurality of printers. To accomplish this, Gassho '626 monitors working status of each printer and job status of each print job. Matsueda '152 (US 2003/0133152 A1) is directed to managing job information in a memory box. To accomplish this, Matsueda '152 monitors the job information by a monitoring means and deletes the job information in accordance with a managing state of the job information. Matsueda '404 is directed to creating a memory box peculiar to a printer which stores print data, and notifies a client apparatus with information such as a box number, password, and the position of the memory box. (see [0053]).

As described in the application at page 11, line 15 to page 15, line 25 and Fig. 5, an embodiment of the invention includes a network printer monitoring unit 107 which includes a function that the printers 300 connected to the network 400 are searched and collated with the network printer information 12 in the storing unit 102 at regular time intervals, thereby discriminating whether a change has occurred or not. The network printer monitoring unit 107 includes a function that if the newly connected printer 300 is detected, the driver installation

processing unit 108 is notified of the printer identification information such as a printer name of such a printer 300. The driver installation processing unit 108 includes a function that if the new printer 300 is detected on the network 400 by the network printer monitoring unit 107, a printer driver corresponding to the newly connected a printer is received by the print server processing unit 106, the newly connected printer is set as a shared printer and the plurality of clients are informed of the newly connected printer.

None of the cited prior art, discloses, teaches or suggests receiving a printer driver and forming an installing program for the printer driver for use by the plurality of clients when a connection of a new printer is detected, and a notifying unit which notifies the plurality of clients of the position of the installing program when the newly connected printer is set for sharing.

Applicant submits that the combination of Gassho, Matsueda '152 and Matsueda '404 does not make amended claim 1 obvious. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of claim 1.

Amended claim 21 is allowable for the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 5, 7-10, 15, 17-20 and 22-23 are allowable based at least on their respective dependency from allowable claims 1 and 21.

Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 4, 6, 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,180,626 ("Gassho '626") in combination with U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0133152 ("Matsueda '152"), and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0179404 ("Matsueda '404") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,162,449 {Drummond '449).

Claims 4, 6, 14 and 17 depend respectively from allowable claims 1 and 21. Drummond does not overcome the deficiencies of Gassho, Matsueda '152 and Matsueda '404. Accordingly, claims 4, 6, 14 and 17 are allowable based at least on their respective dependencies from allowable claims 1 and 21.

Conclusion

Insofar as the Examiner's objections and rejections have been fully addressed, the instant application, including claims 1, 4-10 and 14-23, is in condition for allowance and Notice of Allowability of claims 1, 4-10 and 14-23 is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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